

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An automatic analyzer comprising:

a sample dispensing mechanism ~~for dispensing~~ that dispenses a sample from a sample container;

a sample container disk, arranged to accommodate a plurality of sample containers, including said sample container, arranged circularly on said sample container disk, and rotated to transfer the sample containers to a sample dispensing position of said sample dispensing mechanism;

reaction vessels in which samples dispensed by said sample dispensing mechanism are discharged;

a measuring unit that measures reactions in said reaction vessels;

an information recording medium attached to said sample container, that stores information for identifying a sample in said sample container;

an information reader arranged to read, when said sample container is positioned at an information reading position, an information recorded on ~~an~~ said information recording medium attached to said sample container positioned at said information reading ~~position; and~~ position;

an identifying unit that identifies a sample in said sample container on the basis of an information read by said information reader;

an information storing section that stores identified results identified by said identifying unit; and

a controller for controlling said sample dispensing mechanism and said sample container disk that controls said information reader to perform said reading of information recorded in said information recording medium prior to a first sample dispensing operation of said sample dispensing mechanism, for said identifying unit to perform said identifying of a sample in a said sample container on the basis of the information read by said information reader, said information storing section to perform said storing of identified results identified by said identifying unit, said information reader to again perform said reading of information recorded in said information recording medium just before or after a second sample dispensing operation of said sample dispensing mechanism, and said identifying unit to again perform said identifying of a sample in said sample container, and for checking wherein said controller further checks whether or not a sample to be sucked or already sucked by said sample dispensing mechanism is a the sample to be dispensed or already dispensed by said sample dispensing mechanism in the second sample dispensing operation is a sample whose information has been previously read by said information reader immediately before the checking by said controller prior to said first sample dispensing operation.

13. – 19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) An automatic analyzer according to claim 12, wherein said controller controls said sample dispensing mechanism to suck a sample from said sample container when the sample to be sucked is the same sample whose information has been already read by said information reader.

21. (currently amended) An automatic analyzer according to claim 12, wherein said controller issues an alarm when a sample that has been dispensed is different from the sample identified by the information previously read by said information reader.

22. (currently amended) An automatic analyzer according to claim 12, further comprising a cover ~~for preventing~~ configured to prevent a sample container from being taken out of the sample container disk from the time information recorded on an information recording medium attached to the sample container has again been read immediately before the dispensation of the sample by the sample dispensing mechanism, until the sample dispensing mechanism has dispensed the sample from the sample container.

23. (currently amended) An automatic analyzer according to claim 22, wherein the cover comprises a portion covering at least one part ~~of a moving locus~~ of the front end of a probe of the sample dispensing mechanism on a moving locus of the probe.

24. (previously presented) An automatic analyzer according to claim 22, wherein the cover further comprises a mechanism for moving from a position covering the sample container disk so that a sample container on the sample container disk can be taken out.

25. (previously presented) An automatic analyzer according to claim 24, further comprising a movement detector for detecting the movement of the cover, wherein said controller controls said sample dispensing mechanism so as not to dispense a sample when the movement detector detects the movement of the cover.

26. (previously presented) An automatic analyzer according to claim 22, wherein the cover is made of an electrically conductive material.